

## MSFC Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs

Helen Stinson/LA40  
205-544-7239  
E-mail: helen.stinson@msfc.nasa.gov

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program was established by Congress in 1982 to provide increased opportunities for small businesses to participate in Federal research and development (R&D) to increase employment and improve our country's competitiveness. The program objectives established by law include stimulating technological innovation in the private sector, strengthening the role of small business concerns in meeting Federal research and development needs, increasing the commercial application of federally supported research results, and fostering and encouraging participation by socially and economically disadvantaged persons and women-owned businesses in technological innovation. The 11 Federal agencies with R&D budgets exceeding \$100 million have implemented SBIR programs. Funding is provided by allocating a percentage of each agency's extramural R&D budget for SBIR. Each Agency administers its own individual program within guidelines established by the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Phase I is the opportunity to establish the feasibility and technical merit of a proposed innovation. Phase I contracts last for 6 months and up to \$70,000. Phase II is to continue development of selected innovations shown feasible in Phase I that have the highest potential value to NASA and to the U.S. economy. Phase II contracts are for a period of 2 years and up to \$600,000. Phase III involves non-SBIR capital to pursue commercial applications of their

project results in the private sector and in the Federal Government.

The Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) pilot program awards contracts to small business concerns for cooperative R&D with a research institution through a uniform, three-phase process. The program was authorized for 3 years beginning in 1994. Program goals are to transfer technology developed by universities and Federal laboratories into private marketplace through the entrepreneurship of a small business. The small business and its partnering institution are required to sign an agreement on how intellectual property will be shared between them. Phase I STTR projects receive up to \$100,000 in funds for 1 year; Phase II is limited to \$500,000 for 2 years.

The NASA SBIR program is an Agency-wide effort that contributes to NASA's mission in planning, directing, and conducting R&D for civilian uses of space and aeronautics. All 10 NASA field installations and Headquarters program offices participate in the program. MSFC managed nineteen 1995 SBIR Phase I contracts valued at \$1.3 million; forty-seven 1993 and 1994 SBIR Phase II contracts valued at \$27.6 million; ten SBIR Phase III contracts valued at \$2 million, eight 1995 STTR Phase I contracts and ten 1996 STTR Phase II contracts during the past year.

**Sponsor:** Office of Aeronautics; SBIR/STTR

**Biographical Sketch:** Helen Stinson manages the MSFC SBIR/STTR program. She graduated with a degree in materials engineering from the University of Alabama in Birmingham and has previously worked in the Structural Analysis division of the Structures and Dynamics Laboratory. 